

HOUSE RESOLUTION 79
By Godsey

A RESOLUTION To honor and recognize the pastor and congregation of the Anderson Street United Methodist Church of Bristol and thank them for making their church available for use by the Boys & Girls Club of Bristol.

WHEREAS, For 108 years, the community of faith meeting on Anderson Street in Bristol, Tennessee, has worked tirelessly to live out its mission of faithful service to the Creator and to humanity; and

WHEREAS, The congregation that was to become Anderson Street United Methodist Church began to worship together in 1893 in a little brick school house on the corner of Anderson and Tenth Streets in Bristol, where a few dedicated Christians met to form a mission; and

WHEREAS, The mission flourished and a swelling number of congregants placed a strain on the adequacy of the building's space; in 1894, the Holston Conference appointed the first minister to the newly chartered church; and

WHEREAS, The level of need for more space was critical by 1896, when construction of a new frame church was undertaken; the new edifice was completed in 1898 and a few years later a Sunday School annex was added; and

WHEREAS, Many ministers served the new church between 1894 and 1929; the church soon was bursting at the seams with more than 800 attending Sunday School and 621 at Morning Worship; and

WHEREAS, A new building was begun in 1930 in the midst of the Depression, and by July 21, 1943, the church was again debt-free; and

WHEREAS, Since those early days, the communicants of Anderson Street UMC have continually sought new ways to be faithful to their mission and have embraced imaginative projects to serve God and their community; and

WHEREAS, Recently Anderson Street UMC has initiated a new outreach program, partnering with the Boys & Girls Club of Bristol, to allow the club's members to use their building as an after-school and summer safe haven for their club activities; this program complements the congregation's decision to join hands with the federal Weed and Seed Project to restore and revitalize the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, This General Assembly finds it appropriate to recognize and praise the resolve of the pastor and communicants of Anderson Street UMC, for their unselfish contribution of the use of their building and their dedication to God and humanity; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we recognize the outstanding commitment to service of the Reverend Jerry Fleenor and the members of the congregation of Anderson Street UMC in Bristol, and thank them for their willingness to share their church building with the Boys & Girls Club of Bristol.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

